

Eikhah 3 and the Court of Law

I. בין אדם לחברו

a. מקורות מקראיים

• בראשית טז:ה

• ישע' ה:א-ז (משל הכרם)

b. Neo Babylonian Trial Record

Arad-Innin son of Šākin-šumi, Kalbaya son of Silim-Bēl, Šamaš-iddin son of Bēl-iddin, grandsons of Bēl-ahhē-iddin descendant of Gimil-Nanaya said thus to Nabû-ahhē-bullit, the provincial governor:

"In year 4 of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, Bēl-ahhē-iddin, our father's father, paid 5 1/2 mina of silver for expenses to Bēl-ahhē-iddin son of Gudādu descendant of Sîn-lēqi-unninnī. In the debt-note, he took his house which is at the grand gate of the Eanna (temple) as pledge. Until now, the former qīpu-officials of the Eanna have control over that house; they have not released the house into our possession. Render our decision against the qīpu-officials of the Eanna! (*purussāni šukun*)"

II. בין אדם למקום

a. מקורות מקראיים

• דהי"ב כ:ו-כ

• תהלים מב-מג

b. *Maqlû* I.1–36

I call you, gods of the night,
With you, I call Night, the veiled bride;
I call Twilight, Midnight, and Dawn.
Because a witch has bewitched me,
(5) (Because) a deceitful woman has accused me,
(because) she has caused my god and my goddess to be estranged from me,
I have become sickening to those who see me;
I am unable to rest night or day.
Threads continually fill my mouth,
(10) They kept food (lit. flour) away from my mouth,
They diminished the water from where I drink.
My joyful song is wailing, my rejoicing is mourning.
Stand by me, Oh great gods, hear my suit!
Judge my case (*di-ni di-na*), grant me a decision (*a-lak-ti lim-da*)!
(15) I have fashioned the image of my (enemy) wizard and witch,
Of my (enemy) sorcerer and sorceress,
I have placed (them) beneath you and I hereby argue my case (*a-dib-bu-ub di-ni*).
Because she has done evil, she has plotted misdeeds,
Let her die, let me live!
(20) May her witchcraft, her magic, her sorcery be undone!
May the tamarisk, whose crown is luxuriant, cleanse me,
May the date-palm, which withstands all winds, release me,
May the soapwort, which fills the earth, purify me,
May the pinecone, which is filled with seed, release me!
(25) Before you, I have become as clean as sassatu-grass,
I have become pure, I have become clear as lardu-grass.
Her spell is that of an evil witch,
(but) her word is returned to her mouth, her tongue is tied.
On account of her witchcraft, may the gods of the night strike her,
(30) May the night's three watches release her evil sorceries.
May her mouth be tallow, may her tongue be salt:
May that (mouth) which spoke evil against me drip away like tallow,

May that (tongue) which performed witchcraft dissolve like salt.
Her knots are untied, her sorceries are wiped away,
(35) all her words fill the steppe—
by the command spoken by the gods of the night.